

Joint Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2005

Attendees: Ray Stevens & Kerry Eagan, County Board; Rick Hoppe, Mayor's Office; Patti Newman & Annette McRoy, City Council; Marc Wullschleger, Urban Development; Kit Boesch, Human Services; Guests: Brian Wachman & Robin Mahoney, United Way; Clyde Tyndall, Indian Center.

Ray called the meeting to order and brief attendee introductions were made. Minutes from the July 29 & September 7 meeting were approved as written.

Mr. Clyde Tyndall, Executive Director, of the Indian Center addressed the group with a brief outline of the direction of the Indian Center. Mr. Tyndall has been at the Center for only 6-months and was hired to direct the rebuilding of the Indian Center. In his short time there, he has already made great strides in the areas of agency funding via grant writing, staff/board training, revision of the center's strategic plan, updating of internal policies/procedures, and evaluating staff positions. He started the Indian Center Enterprise (ICE) as a new revenue prospect for the center. This is a housing management business which is a highly sought after trade. He has also instigated membership of the Indian Center with prominent organizations such as LIBA. The Indian Center has obtainable goals and objectives and has set the wheels in motion to successfully implement programs/plans and become a more prosperous/ active agency in our city.

Robin Mahoney noted the United Way Campaign is in full swing and going well. She reviewed the work of the United Way Connection Impact Committee. This will more narrowly focus the direction and eligibility of agencies as they apply for funds.

Kit reported on the Point of Contact (POC) effort for Katrina evacuees. The purpose of this effort was to connect evacuees with a local volunteer to assist with basic needs after their arrival. To-date 200+ people have been assisted via the American Red Cross and the People's City Mission. Human Services has partnered 75 families with a POC. The faith community was ready with 85 churches willing to adopt/assist families in need during this effort. To date, 22 children have been enrolled in Lincoln Public Schools. Overall all, the city's immediate response to the call for help was outstanding.

Kit summarized the Human Services 2004-2005 Activity Report and recapped the five major goals/objectives of the department. She briefly reflected on the importance the Juvenile Justice System plays in our community. They serve approximately over 2500 kids per year in some capacity.

Medical Translation & Interpretation (MTI) – is a hot issue. Healthcare and medical related issues continue to be a significant barrier within our non-English speaking communities. This is a top priority with the Community Health Endowment and the New Americans Task Force. A presentation by members of the MTI Leadership Team was given in Omaha at the Minority Health Conference. The MTI Team has 8 recommendations which they plan to work on over the next 3 years. CHE has extended \$20,000 in support of the MTI Project.

Low Income Bus Transportation—There has been a significant increase in the number of ticket sales over the past 12 months (695 in Oct.'04 to #1,592 in Oct. '05) A 250% increase in child fares can probably be directly connected to the limitations of bus transportation by LPS, and the 19% increase in adult fares could partly be attributed to gas prices. Additional financial perspectives are being asked for at this time. Kit suggested to Volunteer Partners that perhaps an update should be given to The City Council and Mayors office.

Discussion followed on the lack of direction at the Hispanic Center. Rick Hoppe, stated he and Mayor Seng have met with representatives from the Hispanic Center . They were seeking her assistance in keeping the center open. It was suggested that using a letter previously drafted by United Way, be reissued by the Mayor's office listing exact criteria they need to meet and assistance that is available to them. It could mention that it would be to their benefit to accept volunteer assistance to get themselves back on track and eligible for funding. Rick suggested that perhaps a recommendation by the Mayor to act upon the outline set forth in a 2nd letter might be enough to get the agency seeking the assistance they are looking for. The Human Services Federation and Lincoln/Lancaster County Human Services office have already volunteered assistance if requested.

Kit noted that Christine Stroud, is the new Office of Immigration and Refugee Coordination at NE HHS. Christine seems to be in touch with what needs to be done and is moving forward to interact with different agencies and tackle immediate concerns.

The next meeting will be December 9th, 8:30 a.m. at the Mayor's Conference Room.